

SPECIAL SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT AND ABSTRACT DEADLINE REMINDER

P15: Geophysical Field Investigations of Mars Analog Environments

Abstract Submission Deadline: 7 September 2006, 2359 UT (Universal Time)

2006 AGU Fall Meeting

11-15 December 2006, Monday-Friday

Moscone Center West, 800 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA, USA

<<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm06/>><http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm06/>

Dear Colleague,

Given the growing importance of geophysical investigations to the exploration of Mars, and the utility of testing these techniques in analog environments on Earth, we have organized a special session on this topic for the 2006 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco. The scope of this session will encompass geological and geophysical investigations of a broad range of analog environments, as well supporting laboratory and theoretical work. If you are engaged in any research associated with these topics we encourage you to submit an abstract. The deadline for submission is 7 September 2006, 2359 Universal Time. A more detailed description of the session is appended below.

Hope to see you at the meeting!

S. Clifford, E. Heggy, and V. Ciarletti

P15: Geophysical Field Investigations of Mars Analog Environments

Sponsor: Planetary Sciences

Co-Sponsor: Near Surface Geophysics

Conveners: Stephen M. Clifford (LPI), Essam Heggy (LPI) and Valérie Ciarletti (CETP)

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Index Terms: 6225 0900 0540.

Description: Geophysical techniques are an important new tool for investigating the subsurface properties of Mars, especially with regard to understanding variations in subsurface composition, structure, stratigraphy, and the potential distribution and state of H₂O. Understanding the distribution of water is an especially high priority objective of the Mars Exploration Program, providing important insights into the geologic and hydrologic evolution of the planet, potential past and present habitable environments, and the availability of a critical in-situ resource for supporting future human exploration. This session explores the application of electromagnetic, seismic and other types of geophysical techniques to investigations of the subsurface properties of well-characterized terrestrial desert, volcanic and cold-climate analogs of Mars. The topics addressed will include: (1) studies of the compositional, stratigraphic, structural, and hydrologic characteristics of these analog sites over the range of radar frequencies likely to be employed by present and future spacecraft investigations of Mars (~1 MHz - 3 GHz) ^ especially in the lower range (~1 - 25 MHz), where the first-order characteristics of the Earth's crust are largely unexplored; (2) the potential diagnostic and interpretive synergies that can be realized from the application of multiple geophysical techniques; and (3) assessments of the real-world capabilities and limitations of spacecraft instrument prototypes. The submission of abstracts addressing these issues, and related laboratory and geophysical modeling investigations, are strongly encouraged.

The link for abstract submission, meeting and housing information is:

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm06/>